In the claims:

1.   (currently amended) An information management method comprising steps of:

assigning a first user a unique user ~~identification number~~ identifier;

storing information related to the first user in a remote database operatively coupled to a remote computer; and

enabling a plurality of second ~~user~~ users to access the remote database over a network using a second computer to retrieve the information related to the first user by entering the unique user ~~identification number~~ identifier.

2.   (currently amended) The information management method of claim 1, wherein the step of assigning includes a step of providing the first user with a bar code representation of the unique user ~~identification number~~ identifier.

3.   (currently amended) The information management method of claim 2, further comprising a step of printing characters representative of the unique user ~~identification number~~ identifier on a document.

4.   (original) The information management method of claim 3, wherein the document is a business card.

5.   (original) The information management method of claim 3, wherein the step of printing includes a step of printing the bar code on the document.

6.   (currently amended) The information management method of claim ~~6~~ 1, further comprising steps of: establishing a second database of user information in the second computer, and updating information in the second database of the second computer by accessing information in the remote database.

7.   (original) The information management method of claim 6, wherein the second computer accesses the remote computer over the Internet.

8.   (currently amended) The information management method of claim 7 1, further comprising a step of enabling the first user to access the remote computer over a network using a first computer to edit the information related to the first user stored in the remote database.

9.   (original) The information management method of claim 1, wherein the second computer includes a second database, and the method further includes a step of synchronizing information in the second database with information contained in the remote database.

10.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing includes a step of storing an authorized access list with the information for the first user, the authorized access list containing a list of users having authorized access to the information for the first user, and wherein the step of enabling access includes a step of checking whether one of the plurality of second user users is on the authorized access list for the first user.

11.   (original) The information management method of claim 1, further comprising a step of enabling the first user to access the remote computer over a network using a first computer to edit the information related to the first user stored in the remote database.

12.   (currently amended) An information management system comprising:
a remote computer;
a remote database operatively coupled to the remote computer, the remote database containing contact information for each of a plurality of users of the information management system, wherein each of the users is assigned a unique user identification number identifier, and the information for each user is stored along with the unique user identification number identifier of the user in the remote database;
wherein the remote computer includes:
a network interface module that interfaces with a network to allow users of the information management system to access the remote computer;

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a database interface module that coordinates transfer of data between the remote database and the remote computer;

an application module containing instructions to enable a network user to access the remote database over the network using a second network computer to retrieve information in the remote database related to a first user by entering the unique user ~~identification number~~ identifier.

13.   (currently amended) The information management system of claim 12, wherein the application module further includes instructions to provide the first user with a bar code representation of the unique user ~~identification number~~ identifier.

14.   (original) The information management system of claim 13, wherein the network computer includes a second database, and the application module includes instructions to provide updating of information in the second database of the network computer with information in the remote database.

15.   (original) The information management system of claim 14, wherein the application module includes instructions to enable the first user to access the remote computer over the network using a first network computer to edit the information related to the first user stored in the remote database.

16.   (original) The information management system of claim 12, wherein the second network computer includes a second database, and the application module includes instructions to provide updating of information in the second database with information in the remote database.

17.   (currently amended) An information management system comprising:
means for assigning a first user a unique user ~~identification number~~ identifier;
means for storing information related to the first user in a remote database operatively coupled to a remote computer;

means for enabling a second user to access the first database over a network using a second network computer to retrieve the information related to the first user by entering the unique user ~~identification number~~ identifier.

18.   (currently amended) The information management system of claim 17, further comprising means for providing the first user with a bar code representation of the unique user ~~identification number~~ identifier.

19.   (original) The information management system of claim 18, wherein the means for enabling includes means for updating information in a second database of the second network computer by accessing information in the remote database.

20.   (original) The information management system of claim 19, further comprising means for enabling the first user to access the remote computer over a network using a first network computer to edit the information related to the first user stored in the remote database.

21.   (original) The information management system of claim 17, wherein the second network computer includes a second database, and the management system further includes means for synchronizing information in the second database with information contained in the remote database.

22.   (original) The information management system of claim 17, wherein the means for storing includes means for storing an authorized access list with the information for the first user, the authorized access list containing a list of users having authorized access to the information for the first user, and wherein the means for enabling access includes means for checking whether the second user is on the authorized access list for the first user.

23.   (original) The information management system of claim 17, further comprising means for enabling the first user to access the remote computer over a network using a first network computer to edit the information related to the first user stored in the remote database.

24.   (new) The information management method of claim 1 wherein the identifier includes an alphanumeric identification code.

25.   (new) The information management method of claim 1 further comprising registering as a new user by entering contact data associated with the unique user identifier of the new user, the contact data including at least one of an email address, a name, a telephone number, an address, a title, and a facsimile number.

26.   (new) The information management method of claim 25 wherein registering includes designating a registration type including but not limited to a professional, a corporation, and an individual.

27.   (new) The information management method of claim 25 further comprising verifying the registration of a new user by matching the email address as a unique identifier against existing contact information in the remote database.

28.   (new) The information management method of claim 1 further comprising designating the information related to the first user as blocked to deny access to the information by the plurality of second users.

29.   (new) The information management method of claim 1 further comprising designating the information related to the first user as publicly accessible.

30.   (new) The information management method of claim 1 further comprising entering an identifier to allow a plurality of privileged users access to the stored information, wherein the privileged users comprise at least one of the plurality of second users.

31.   (new) The information management system of claim 14 wherein the second database includes a synchronizer for synchronizing information between the second database of the network computer and the remote database.

32.   (new) The information management system of claim 12 wherein the application module includes instructions to establish account preferences related to the information on the remote database related to the first user.

33.   (new) The information management system of claim 34 wherein the account preferences include at least one of public access, limited access, and blocked access.

34.   (new) The information management method of claim 1 further comprising assigning a second unique user identifier to one of the plurality of second users and providing access to the remote database by one of the plurality of second users using the second unique user identifier.

35.   (new) The information management system of claim 17, further comprising means for receiving contact information from and providing contact information to the second user over the Internet.

36.   (new) The information management system of claim 17, wherein the means for storing contains for the second user a blocked list that identifies blocked users that are not authorized to access contact information of the first user.

37.   (new) The information management system of claim 12, wherein the application module includes instructions to designate the information related to the first user as blocked to deny access to the information by at least one of the plurality of users.

38.   (new) The information management system of claim 12, wherein the application module includes instructions to designate the information related to the first user as publicly accessible.

39.   (new) The information management system of claim 12, wherein the application module includes instructions to allow a plurality of privileged users access to the information in the remote database, the plurality of privileged users comprising at least one of the plurality of users of the information management system.